

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows. This claim set is to replace all prior versions.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating vasomotor symptoms comprising:
administering continuously and uninterruptedly a dose of a therapeutic amount of an estrogenic compound to a subject;
administering continuously and uninterruptedly a dose of a therapeutic amount of a progestin agent to a subject for about 7 to about 120 days; and
administering continuously and uninterruptedly a second dose of a therapeutic amount of a progestin agent at a later time period to the subject for at least about two weeks, said second dose comprising a lower dosage of said therapeutic amount of a progestin agent than said first dose.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said progestin agent is selected from the group consisting of dl-norgestrel, norethindrone (norethisterone), norethindrone (norethisterone) acetate, ethynodiol diacetate, dydrogesterone, medroxyprogesterone acetate, norethynodrel, allylestrenol, lynoestrenol, quingestanol acetate, medrogestone, norgestrienone, dimethisterone, ethisterone, cyproterone acetate, desogestrel, levonorgestrel, hydroxyprogesterone caproate, 19-nortestosterone, chlormadinone acetate, megestrol acetate, norgestimate, norgestrel, trimegestone, gestodene, normegestrel acetate, progesterone, 5 α -pregnan-3 β , 20 β -diol sulfate, 5 α -pregnan-3 β -ol-20-one, 16,5 α -pregnen-3 β -ol-20-one and 4-pregnen-20 β -ol-3-one-20-sulfate.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said first dose comprises an equivalent of 0.5 to 40 mg of a progestin agent, based on equivalent oral doses to megestrol acetate.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said first dose comprises

an equivalent of 2 to 20 mg of a progestin agent, based on equivalent oral doses to megestrol acetate.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second dose comprises an equivalent of 0.025 to 10 mg of a progestin agent, based on equivalent oral doses to megestrol acetate.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said estrogenic compound is a conjugated estrogen.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said estrogenic compound is selected from the group consisting of estrone, 17 α -estradiol, 17 β -estradiol, equilin, 17 α -dihydroequilin, 17 β -dihydroequilin, equilenin, 17 α -dihydroequilenin, 17 β -dihydroequilenin, $\Delta^{8,9}$ -dehydroestrone, 17 α $\Delta^{8,9}$ -dehydroestradiol, 17 β $\Delta^{8,9}$ -dehydroestradiol, 6-OH equilenin, 6-OH 17 α -dihydroequilenin, ethinyl estradiol, estradiol valerate, 6-OH 17 β -dihydroequilenin, and mixtures, conjugates and salts thereof.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second dose of a progestin agent is administered after therapy of the vasomotor symptoms has been effectively established.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second dose of a progestin agent is administered between 1 week and 12 weeks after the first dose of a progestin agent.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second dose of a progestin agent is administered between 2 weeks and 8 weeks after the first dose of a

progestin agent.

13. (Original) The method according claim 1, wherein said first dose is continuously and uninterruptedly administered to said subject for a predetermined period of time and then said second dose is continuously and uninterruptedly administered to said subject.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, comprising:
administering a third dose of a therapeutic amount of a progestin agent at a later time period to the subject than that of said second dose, said third dose comprising a lower dosage of said therapeutic amount of a progestin agent than said second dose.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is human.

16. – 50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) A method for treating vasomotor symptoms in a subject afflicted therewith, comprising administering a dose of a therapeutic amount of an estrogenic compound to a subject; administering a progestin agent to said subject for at least two cycles of a cyclical dosing schedule, wherein the first cycle comprises a dosing period of at least one week, in which the progestin agent is administered daily, at a dose of an equivalent of 8 to 40 mg/day of oral megestrol acetate, followed by at least one second cycle comprising a dosing period of at least about two weeks ~~that can last for an indeterminate period of time~~ in which a progestin agent is administered daily, at a dose of an equivalent of 4 to 20 mg/day of oral megestrol acetate.